

TRUXTON KING

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Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

Chapter I—Truxton King arrives in Edgewood, capital of Graustark, and meets the beautiful niece of Spantz, a gunmaker. II—King does a favor for Prince Robin, the young ruler of the country, whose guardian is John Tullis, an American. III—Baron Dangloss, minister of police, interviews King and warns him against Olga, the gunmaker's niece.

CHAPTER IV. Truxton Treasures.

There was a sparkle in King's eyes as he struck out across town after breakfast the next morning. He burst in upon Mr. Hobbs at Cook's. "Say, Hobbs, how about the castle today—in an hour, say? Can you take a party of one rubbernecking this morning? I want you to get me into the castle grounds today and show me where the duchesses dawdle and the countesses cavort."

"Of course, sir, you understand there are certain parts of the park not open to the public. The grove and the playgrounds and the Basin of Venus—"

"I'll not trespass, so don't nag, Hobbs. I'll be here for you at ten."

"Truxton hurried to the square and across it to the shop of the armorer, not forgetting, however, to look about in some anxiety for the excellent Dangloss, who might, for all he knew, be snooping in the neighborhood. Spantz was at the rear of the shop talking to a customer. The girl was behind the counter, dressed for the street."

She came quickly out to him, a disturbed expression in her face. As he doffed his hat the smile left his lips. He saw that she had been weeping.

"You must not come here, Mr. King," she said hurriedly in low tones. "Take your broadsword this morning, and please, for my sake, do not ask again I—I may not explain why I am asking you to do this."

"Just a minute, please," he interrupted. "I've heard your story from Baron Dangloss. Are you in trouble? Do you need friends, Miss Platunova?"

"The baron has told you all about me?" She smiled sadly. "Alas, he has only told you what he knows. But it should be sufficient. There is no place in my life for you or any one else. There never can be. Do you question me? I can say no more. Now I must be gone. I—I have warned you. Do not come again."

She slipped into the street and was gone. King stood in the doorway, looking after her, a puzzled gleam in his eyes. Old Spantz was coming up from the rear, followed by his customer.

"Hello, Mr. Spantz! Good morning. I'm here for the sword."

"The old man glared at him in unmistakable displeasure. Truxton began counting out his money. The customer, a swarthy fellow, passed out of the door, turning to glance intently at the young man. A meaning look and a sly nod passed between him and Spantz. The man halted at the corner below and later on followed King to Cook's office, afterward to the castle gates, outside of which he waited until his quarry reappeared. Until King went to bed late that night this swarthy fellow was close at his heels, always keeping well out of sight himself."

"I'll come in soon to look at those rings," said King, placing the notes on the counter. Spantz merely nodded, raked in the bills without counting them and passed the sword over to the purchaser.

Truxton picked up the weapon and stalked away.

A few minutes later he was on his way to the castle grounds, accompanied by the short-legged Mr. Hobbs. Hobbs led him through the great park gates and up to the lodge of Jacob Fraasch, the venerable head steward of the grounds. Here, to King's utter disgust, he was booked as a plain Cook's tourist and mechanically advised to pay strict attention to the rules.

"It's no disgrace," growled Hobbs, redder than ever. "You're inside the grounds, and you've got to obey the rules, same as any tourist. Right this way, sir. We'll take a turn just inside the wall. Now, on your left, ladies and—ahem—I should say—against the moss covered wall that encircled the park within a park, the grounds adjoining the grove." "Can't I hop over this wall and take a peep into the grove?"

"By no means!" cried Hobbs, horrified. King looked over the low wall. The prospect was alluring. The pool, the trickling rivulets, the mossy banks, the dense shadows—it was maddening to think he could not enter.

"I wouldn't," he said to himself, "I argued. And I might catch a glimpse of a dream lady. Now, I say, Hobbs, here's a low place. I could jump—"

"Mr. King, if you do that I am ruined forever. I am trusted by the steward. He would cut off all my privileges—Hobbs could go no further. He was prematurely agitated. Something told him that Mr. King would hop over the wall."

"Go and report me, Hobbs; there's a good fellow. Tell the guards I wouldn't obey. That will let you out, my boy, and I'll do the rest."

He strode off across the bright green

A Story of Graustark By GEORGE BARR McCUTCHEON

CHAPTER V.

Truxton, conscious of guilt, whirled with as much consternation as if he had been accosted by a voice of thunder. He beheld a very small boy standing at the top of the knoll above him, not thirty feet away. His face was quite as dirty as any small boy's should be at that time of day, and his curly brown hair looked as if it had not been combed since the day before. His firm little legs, in half hose and presumably white knickerbockers, were spread apart, and his hands were in his pockets.

King recognized him at once and looked about uneasily for the attendants who, he knew, should be near. It is safe to say that he came to his feet and bowed deeply, even in humility.

"What are you doing in here?" demanded a voice.

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Miscellaneous Reading.

SOME GENERAL LAWS.

No Really Important State-Wide Legislation Enacted.

The legislature has adjourned, writes the Columbia correspondent of the Greenville News, and if there was any really important law of state-wide nature enacted, it is yet to be found on the statute books. The more one thinks of the work of that session, the more the fact dawned upon him that very little was done. One thing can be said about that legislature and that is a marvelous number of local measures were passed. This is the last session and the members are going to have to go before the people during the coming summer and ask for reelection and they will be able to recite the wonderful work done for the people at home.

Perhaps the most important state-wide measure passed at this session was the appropriation of \$60,000 to the weak schools of the state and the enactment of a law providing for the inspection of all commercial food stuffs. The assembly was attended to in a way—though in such a way as to show that the legislature did not wish to entrust the future of the state to the weak schools of the state and the enactment of a law providing for the inspection of all commercial food stuffs.

The following general laws were passed: To amend section 1619 and 1621 of the code of laws of South Carolina, 1902, Vol. I, relating to Pilotage, and to insert two additional sections to be known as 1619a and 1621a.

To require the cancellation of all real estate and chattel mortgages and judgments in the different counties of the state to be entered upon the margin of the indexes thereof.

To amend an act to amend section 1589 of Vol. I, code of laws of South Carolina, 1902, relating to borrowing money by municipalities.

A joint resolution to provide for a commission to examine and revise the school laws of the state, and to recommend changes in the same.

To further prescribe the powers of cities containing more than 5,000 inhabitants.

To empower the commission charged with erection of a monument to the heroism, fidelity and fortitude of the women of South Carolina during the war between the Confederates and the United States, to locate such monument on approaches to the state house grounds.

To authorize and empower trustees of Clemson Agricultural and Mechanical college to purchase adjacent lands and providing means of payments for same.

To amend the code, volume I, chapter XLIX, relating to municipal corporations, by adding thereto an article to be known as article VII, providing a form of government for cities of more than 20,000 inhabitants and less than 50,000 inhabitants, such form of government to be adopted by special election ordered upon petition.

To provide for the examination and registration of trained nurses.

To authorize municipal corporations containing 5,000 inhabitants to establish or permit the establishment of slaughter pens beyond their corporate limits, and prescribe regulations in regard thereto.

To compel support of wife and children by husband.

To amend an act to reorganize military forces of this state, to adopt and make force of a military code, and to provide penalties for the violation thereof, and to repeal all laws heretofore enacted, so as to make the organization of national guard comply with the requirements of the United States.

To provide for the manufacture and sale of certain alcohol within this state.

To amend an act to amend section 948 of the code of laws of South Carolina, volume I, relating to the prohibition of deeds beyond the limits of this state.

To empower all cities and towns to require coal, coke, unbleached hay, cotton seed, cattle and other articles, to be weighed by a public weigher.

To provide for holding courts in the Fourth judicial circuit.

To amend section 1378 of volume I, code of laws of South Carolina, 1902, relating to duty of overseers at railroad crossings.

To amend section 241, volume I, code of laws, 1902, relating to the forwarding of mail by express.

To prohibit the mutilation of any monument or fence inclosing same.

To amend an act to authorize sheriff of any county of this state to appoint a deputy sheriff or deputy sheriffs for a full association.

To provide for the compensation of collectors while in attendance upon the sessions of the general assembly.

To provide for the redemption of that part of the state debt, represented by the 41 per cent Brown Consols bonds and stocks, issued by virtue of an act approved December 22, 1892, by placing the same, or so much as may be necessary or practicable, with 34 per cent bonds and stocks.

To provide a mode for the dissolution of school districts formed of parts of two or more counties.

To provide for a public service commission to fix and establish in all cities of this state rates and charges for the supply of water, gas, or electricity furnished by any person, firm, or corporation to such city and the inhabitants thereof, and to prescribe penalties.

To amend chapter 34, article 2, of the civil code of 1902, volume I, in as far as it relates to public cotton weighing, by adding to said chapter additional sections to be numbered sections 1558a and 1558b, regulating the purchase, sale, and public weighing of cotton in bales in Columbia township of Richland county, and providing penalties for violation or their provisions.

To encourage and aid in the construction of adequate public school buildings in the respective counties of this state, and to make an appropriation for same.

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